

THE FRIENDS OF THEODORE ROETHKE HISTORIC MARKER DEDICATION

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, on May 18, 2000, The Friends of Theodore Roethke, a group dedicated to maintaining the legacy of the great poet, will unveil a historic marker in his honor on the lawn of his childhood home at 1805 Gratiot, Saginaw, Michigan. I rise today, Mr. President, in honor of this special occasion.

Mr. Roethke was born in Saginaw in 1908, the son of Otto and Helen Huebner Roethke. He attended the University of Michigan and Harvard Graduate School, and later was a professor at Lafayette College in Pennsylvania, Michigan State University, Penn State University, Bennington College in Vermont, and the University of Washington in Seattle.

Before his death on August 1, 1963, Mr. Roethke received many awards for his poetry. In 1954, he became the first Michigan man to win the Pulitzer Prize for his collection of poems entitled *The Waking*. And in 1959, he received the Bollingen Prize and a National Book Award for another collection of poems entitled *Words of the Wind*. Some of his other works include *The Lost Son*, *Praise to the End!*, and *I Am! Says the Lamb*.

In 1998, the Friends of Theodore Roethke purchased both Roethke homes in Saginaw, Michigan, with a mission to promote, preserve and protect the literary legacy of the great poet by restoring his family residences for cultural and educational opportunities. Since the group purchased the homes, they have written grants for educational writing workshops combining Saginaw public and Saginaw Township students, offered tours for students and teachers, purchased some of the original Roethke furnishing, opened the houses to working writers, and made some much needed repairs, such as a new furnace and asbestos removal.

Mr. President, I applaud The Friends of Theodore Roethke for their wonderful efforts to keep alive the legacy of Michigan's only Pulitzer Prize winning poet. I am sure that the unveiling of this historic marker is only the first of many tributes. On behalf of the entire United States Senate, I congratulate The Friends of Theodore Roethke on the dedication of this historic marker, and wish President Annie Ransford and the rest of the organization continued success in the future.●

IN MEMORY OF MS. MARY S. PALMERI

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today in honor and in memory of Ms. Mary S. Palmeri, who passed away on August 30, 1999. Ms. Palmeri served the County of Wayne, Michigan, for 32 years, and has been chosen by her peers to posthumously receive the coveted Court Clerk of the Year Award, which

will be presented to her family this week.

Ms. Palmeri was born in St. Mary's Hospital in Detroit in 1939, and was a lifelong resident of the city of Dearborn, Michigan. She graduated from Fordson High School in 1958, and spent approximately two years in college. In June of 1967, Ms. Palmeri became a typist at the County of Wayne Department of Civil Service, thus beginning a thirty-two year career of public service.

A few years later Ms. Palmeri was transferred to the County Clerk's Office, where she worked in numerous offices prior to becoming a Court Clerk, including the Record Room and as Supervisor of the Appeals Department. Ms. Palmeri ultimately worked as a Court Clerk for many prominent judges, including the Honorable Henry J. Szymanski, the Honorable William J. Cahalan, and the Honorable Pamela R. Harwood.

In addition to her work, Ms. Palmeri enjoyed many hobbies, including bowling, ceramics, crocheting, knitting and crewel embroidery. She was both a terrific seamstress and a wonderful cook. She also loved to play cards, work on crossword puzzles, and play board games. She was also an active member of St. Alphonseus Catholic Church in Dearborn, Michigan. Ms. Palmeri is survived by her husband of thirty years, Frank, and their three children, Christopher, Cindy and John.

Mr. President, I am glad that the County of Wayne has chosen to honor Ms. Palmeri's many years of service by presenting her family with the Court Clerk of the Year Award. She was a hard worker who truly cared for the people around her, and her warm and generous personality is deeply missed by the entire Dearborn community.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

A DRAFT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION ENTITLED THE "CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION ENHANCED ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2000—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 104

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Com-

mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit today for immediate consideration and prompt enactment the "Consumer Product Safety Commission Enhanced Enforcement Act of 2000." This legislative proposal would increase the penalties that the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) could impose upon manufacturers, distributors, and retailers of consumer products who do not inform the CPSC when the company has reason to believe it has sold a product that does not meet Federal safety standards or could otherwise create a substantial product hazard. The proposal would also improve product recalls by enabling the CPSC to choose an alternative remedy in a recall if the CPSC finds that the remedy selected by the manufacturer is not in the public interest.

Under current consumer product safety laws, manufacturers, distributors, and retailers of consumer products are required to inform the CPSC whenever they have information that one of their products: (1) fails to comply with a CPSC product safety standard; (2) contains a defect that could create a substantial product hazard; or (3) creates an unreasonable risk of serious injury or death. After a company reports this information to the CPSC, the CPSC staff initiates an investigation in cooperation with the company. If the CPSC concludes that the product presents a substantial product hazard and that a recall is in the public interest, the CPSC staff will work with the company to conduct a product safety recall. The sooner the CPSC hears about a dangerous product, the sooner the CPSC can act to remove the product from store shelves and inform consumers about how to eliminate the hazard. That is why it is critical that companies inform the CPSC as soon as they are aware that one of their products may present a serious hazard to the public.

Unfortunately, in about half the cases involving the most significant hazards—where the product can cause death or serious injury—companies do not report to the CPSC. In those cases, the CPSC must get safety information from other sources, including its own investigators, consumers, or tragically, from hospital emergency room reports or death certificates. Sometimes years can pass before the CPSC learns of the product hazard, although the company may have been aware of it all along. During that time, deaths and injuries continue. Once the CPSC becomes aware of the hazard, many companies continue to be recalcitrant, and the CPSC staff must conduct its own independent investigation. This often includes finding and investigating product incidents and conducting extensive laboratory testing. This process can take a long time, which means that the most dangerous products remain on store shelves and in consumers' homes